

Patent claims

1. A method for selecting a potential participant (8a-f) for a medical study on the basis of a selection criterion (2), in which method:

- patient data (6a-f) assigned to a patient (8a-f) are electronically stored,
- a secondary criterion (32) is assigned to the selection criterion (2),
- the patient data (6a-f) are electronically evaluated on the basis of the secondary criterion (32), and, based on this electronic evaluation, a measure (16) for fulfilling the selection criterion (2) is determined for the patient (8a-f) associated with the patient data (6a-f),
- the patient (8a-f) is selected as a potential participant (8a-f) on the basis of this measure (16).

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, in which

- the secondary criterion (32) is assigned to the selection criterion (2) in accordance with known medical correlations (34a-d,g).

3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, in which

- the secondary criterion (32) is assigned to the selection criterion (2) in accordance with linguistically employed medical terms (34f),
- the patient data (6a-f) are evaluated on the basis of the secondary criterion (32) with a classification algorithm.

4. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which

- the secondary criterion (32) is assigned to the selection criterion (2) in accordance with nonmedical correlations (48) concerning the medical study.

5. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which

- a probability value of 100% or 0% is determined as the measure (16),
- the patient selected as a potential participant (8a-f) is

selected as an actual participant (8a-f) or is rejected.

6. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 through 4, in which

- a probability value except 100% and 0% is determined as the measure (16),
- for the patient (8a-f) selected as a potential participant (8a-f), a measure (16) with a probability value of 100% or 0% is determined on the basis of other than the stored patient data (6a-f),
- the patient (8a-f) selected as a potential participant (8a-f) is selected as an actual participant (8a-f) or is rejected.

7. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which

- unstructured medical documents assigned to a patient (8a-f) are digitalized and stored as patient data (6a-f).